



DCA reference number:

PAE-133617989

DPHI/Major Projects reference:

SSD-6333-Mod-3

Date of issue:

4 August 2026

**DCA Technical Advisory advice – State Significant
Development/Infrastructure - Oberon Quarry Mod 3 (2 Hargraves
Quarry Road, Oberon) - Response to Submissions**



1. Project details

Project name	Oberon Quarry Mod 3
DPHI/Major Projects reference:	SSD-6333-Mod-3
Proponent	Oberon Quarries Pty Ltd
Current stage of assessment	Response to submissions
Description of development:	0.9 hectare extension of the extraction area into a cleared paddock
Primary address	Hargraves Quarry Road, Oberon, NSW 2787
Land description (Lot/DP)	Lot 3 DP1087170 (formerly Lot 1 DP845776) Lot 2 DP1087170 Lot 3 DP845776 Lot 94 DP757067 Lot 107 DP757067 Lot 108 DP757067
Local government area (LGA)	Oberon Council



2. Assessment section

DCA Water	
Findings and recommendations	DCA Water Advisory has reviewed the Response to Submissions (RTS) and considers that the proponent has not adequately addressed all recommendations provided by DCCEEW Water Group. Uncertainty remains surrounding the estimated groundwater take and drawdown.
Detailed advice	While the proponent has stated in the RTS that no groundwater has been used in quarry operations, the EIS for the original SSD-6333 consent and the current Water Management Plan (WMP) acknowledge that groundwater interception is expected. Specifically, the WMP states that groundwater associated with jointing within the basalt is expected to be intercepted and drain to the quarry water management system, with groundwater inflows estimated to be less than 2 ML/year. Under the <i>NSW Aquifer Interference Policy</i> (2012), aquifer interference activities include activities that intercept groundwater and result in groundwater take. The interception and drainage of groundwater into a quarry excavation is therefore consistent with the definition of an aquifer interference activity. Even if the proposed modification is not expected to increase the volume of groundwater intercepted, the proponent's statement that "there is no aquifer interference" is inconsistent with information contained within the EIS, WMP and with the <i>NSW Aquifer Interference Policy</i> (2012).
Documents reviewed	• Oberon Quarries Modification 3 Response to Submissions Report dated June 2026 • DCCEEW Water Group EIS advice (OUT26/7179) • Oberon Quarries Water Management Plan, Volume 5 dated May 2025 [available at https://oberonquarries.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/WMP_V5_2025.pdf]
Additional information	None



Recommendation

Pre-approval

DCA Water Advisory maintains the pre-determination recommendation to quantify groundwater take associated with the modified development contained in the DCCEEW Water Group advice on the EIS (OUT26/7179).
